

**M-7 - Magnificent Seven
Philipsburg K-12—Prime Applicant District**

Partner Districts: Arrowhead Elementary, Drummond Elementary, Drummond High School, Gardiner High School, Sheridan Elementary, Shields Valley Elementary, White Sulphur Springs Elementary, and White Sulphur Springs High School

University Mentor(s): MSU-Bozeman Teacher Education Program—Dr. Joan Cook

Mentor(s) at Large: T.E.S.T., Northern Rockies Education Services

Internal Evaluator: Dr. Changhua Wang—Northwest Regional Education Laboratory

Abstract: “The Magnificent 7” (M7) schools have partnered to facilitate collaboration and coordination to effectively integrate current technology and research-based instructional methods into their classrooms. It is designed to develop and implement quality on-going professional development to support teachers in restructuring their teaching methods to embed technology, provide continuing evaluation of new pedagogical approaches, and experiment with new technologies and student enrichment materials while focusing on improving student achievement. The project will focus on sustainable professional development using Intel Teach to the Future training along with instructional immersion in technology systems.

Each school will identify two teachers to become trained as “Integration Specialists”. Total Educational Solutions in Technology (T.E.S.T.) will provide a Technology Integration Mentor that will travel to the schools monthly to work with the Integration Specialists. These teachers will receive extensive and broad technology training to enhance their technology skills, strengthen their mentoring capabilities, and identify effective best practices models in technology integration. This will be accomplished through a 40 hour Intel Teach to the Future training course in the summer, followed by on-site trainings, regional cohort meetings, and ongoing support in person online. M7 will host Grade Level/Subject Specific Lesson Development workshops. This will give teachers the opportunity to network with teachers from other schools while further developing technology rich lessons to be used in the classroom. Northern Rockies Educational Services (NRES) will provide Technology Proficient Mentors to assist at the lesson development workshops.

In year 2 of the project, the consortium will work on an organizational framework to expand by inviting other schools in the area to join M7, creating a sustainable Regional Technology Network that will pool resources and experience across central Montana. Our evaluation work will explore the effects of technology on instructional quality and provide suggestions for the eventual creation of the broader network in terms of applications of best practices in the local contexts.